



# OSLER LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

McGill University, Montreal, Canada

No. 81-February 1996

## The Last of the Chinese Editions of Osler's Textbook?



Chinese civilization flourished in antiquity producing remarkable achievements in the arts and sciences until about 1000 A.D. This was followed by centuries of stagnation in which medicine, characterized by dogmatism and rigidity, demonstrated a conspicuous lack of progress, particularly in anatomy, physiology and pathology. Western medicine was initially introduced into China by foreign missionaries, beginning in the seventeenth century, followed by the establishment of schools and hospitals and the translation of Occidental textbooks.<sup>(1,2)</sup> Among the latter, William Osler's *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*, was to play a significant role.<sup>(3)</sup> Osler's textbook, written in 1892, had already been translated into Russian (1905-06), French (1908), and German (1909) before the appearance of the first Chinese edition.<sup>(4,5)</sup> The history of Dr. Cousland and his translations has been detailed elsewhere.<sup>(6,7)</sup>

The first state of the first edition consists of five thin volumes, the first two published in 1909 and the latter three in 1910. They were verbally translated by Dr. Philip B. Cousland and recorded by Tu Tien-i from the fifth (1902) and sixth (1905) American editions; published by the China Medical Missionary Society, Shanghai; and printed by the Fukuin Printing Company, Ltd. of Yokohama, Japan.<sup>(8)</sup> Cousland did not adhere strictly to Osler's text and abridged or eliminated some diseases not geographically pertinent, and added material introduced from Sir Patrick Manson's *Tropical Diseases*.<sup>(9)</sup> The text was in Chinese, and the title page, "Contents", and preface (dated April 1909) were in Chinese and English. (Fig. 1) The second state was a large single volume published in 1910 with the imprint otherwise the same.<sup>(10)</sup> The preface is dated June 1910 and is identical with the first state except that Cousland extends thanks for help in the translation and makes the additional comment, "As the translation of sections

II to IX was originally made from the fifth edition, it is right to warn those who use the book in teaching, that although it was revised in accordance with the seventh edition, yet in a few places the order of the earlier edition is followed." Cousland apparently made a hasty revision of his translation when the seventh American edition appeared in 1909, resulting in the two states of the first edition. Osler is lauded in the preface as follows, "The Publications Committee is under special obligation to Prof. Osler for his hearty concurrence to give his book to the Chinese in their own language."<sup>(11)</sup> Two thousand five hundred copies of the first printing were issued, of which five hundred were of the first state. Three printings of this first edition were made, the last in 1921.<sup>(6,7,12)</sup>

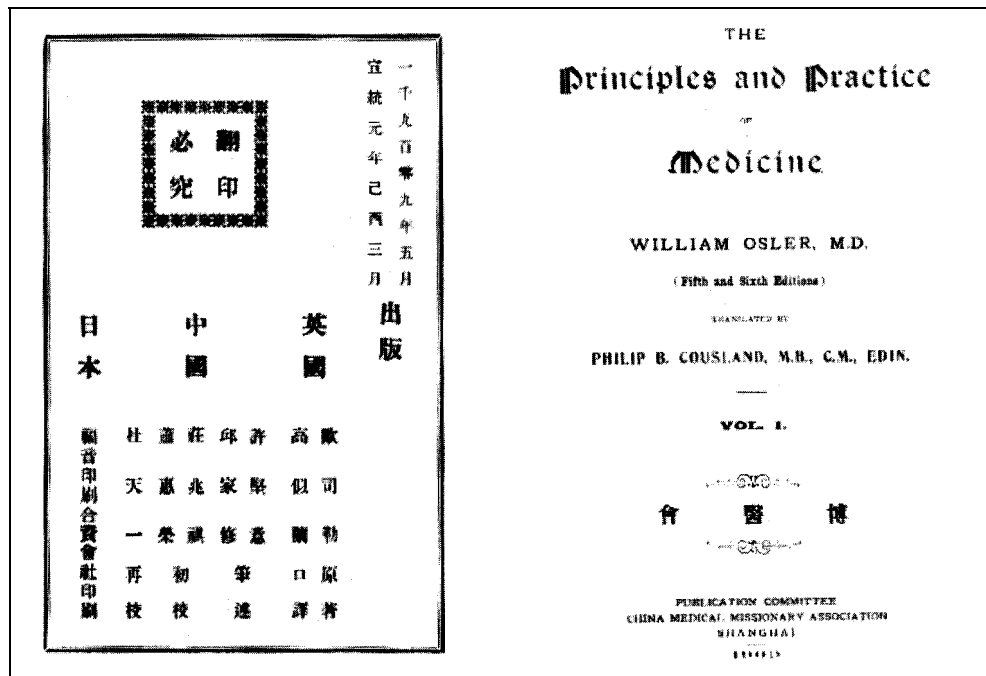


Fig. 1. Title pages of the first Chinese translation of Osler's Textbook, 1909.

can edition by Cousland and W.E. Tchoo, initially appeared in 6 paper volumes constituting the first state of the second edition of which the imprint was the same. Volumes I, II, and III were printed in 1918, and volumes IV, V, and VI in 1919.<sup>(14)</sup> The latter two were reprinted in 1920.<sup>(15)</sup> The single volume edition was printed in 1920, constituting the second state.<sup>(15, 16)</sup> In this edition, not only was new material and an English-Chinese index added, but a much fuller translation of the original was made, resulting in an increase of two hundred and twenty pages.<sup>(6, 7)</sup> In the preface Cousland remarks that Sir William was much interested in the progress of the work and expresses regret that press delays prevented its completion before his death. He writes, "It is some satisfaction to be able to furnish the embryo medical profession in China with a not altogether inadequate representation of his scientific achievements and ripe judgement." Thanks were extended to the China Medical Board of the Rockefeller Foundation for its "generous" financial assistance.<sup>(17)</sup> The second state was reprinted in 1921.<sup>(18)</sup>

Dr. Cousland (Fig. 2) in his capacity as Editorial Secretary of the Publications Committee of the China Medical Missionary Association wrote to Sir William from Yokohama in 1915 about the need for a second edition, "It is quite time that the second edition of your *Medicine* in China was being taken in hand."<sup>(13)</sup> The book, a translation of the eighth Ameri-

can edition by Cousland and W.E. Tchoo, initially appeared in 6 paper volumes constituting the first state of the second edition of which the imprint was the same. Volumes I, II, and III were printed in 1918, and volumes IV, V, and VI in 1919.<sup>(14)</sup> The latter two were reprinted in 1920.<sup>(15)</sup> The single volume edition was printed in 1920, constituting the second state.<sup>(15, 16)</sup> In this edition, not only was new material and an English-Chinese index added, but a much fuller translation of the original was made, resulting in an increase of two hundred and twenty pages.<sup>(6, 7)</sup> In the preface Cousland remarks that Sir William was much interested in the progress of the work and expresses regret that press delays prevented its completion before his death. He writes, "It is some satisfaction to be able to furnish the embryo medical profession in China with a not altogether inadequate representation of his scientific achievements and ripe judgement." Thanks were extended to the China Medical Board of the Rockefeller Foundation for its "generous" financial assistance.<sup>(17)</sup> The second state was reprinted in 1921.<sup>(18)</sup>

A third Chinese edition, based on the ninth American edition, was published in 1925. It was translated by P.B. Cousland assisted by Teh-chin Leo [Teh-hsing Leo], W.E. Tchoo, P.L. McAll, L.M. Ingle and I.T. Hwang. It carried the same imprint as the previous editions and was printed by the Presbyterian Mission Press, Shanghai. <sup>(19)</sup> A two volume edition is also described. <sup>(20)</sup> An important linguistic precedent was made in the third edition in that the Chinese ideographs were printed from left to right across the page in Western fashion, as opposed to the classical style of downwards from right to left, facilitating the use of foreign punctuation and terminology. Although increased information was introduced, the size of the volume remained the same because of the reduction of type size. The preface notes that the ninth edition was the source of the delay in the publication of the tenth (1925). <sup>(6,7)</sup> Cousland further comments that because medical terminology in China is not yet fully standardized, old and alternative terms are sometimes given parenthetically. <sup>(21)</sup> The third Chinese edition was reprinted in 1929, 1931 and 1934. <sup>(22)</sup> The type and format were changed in 1931 when the original printing plant (Commercial Press, Shanghai) was destroyed as a result of the Japanese invasion. <sup>(23)</sup> The 1934 issue was printed by Shen Guang Xie of Shanghai.

An Appendix to the third edition, by P.B. Cousland and Teh-chin Leo was published by the China Medical Association in 1929 and printed by the Mission Book Company, Shanghai. It was intended to update the 1929 reprint and was available either bound with the reprint or separately as a slim twenty-nine page volume "for those whose copies of "Osler" do not contain it." <sup>(24,25)</sup> A new Appendix with the same imprint appeared in 1931, written by P.B. Cousland, P.L. McAll and Teh-chin Leo, giving "later medical progress." As with the earlier Appendix it was available either bound with the reprint or separately as a small sixty-five page volume. <sup>(26)</sup> The last Appendix was published in 1934, authored by P.B. Cousland, Ho-li Meng, Teh-chin Leo and Ju-te Tu, with the same imprint. It was

bound with the reprint and there is no evidence of any separate issue. The title page of the reprint states, "with New Appendix giving Later Medical Progress" and "Reprinted with Appendix revised 1934" on the added post-title page. <sup>(27)</sup>

The second edition of Abbott's bibliography of Sir William Osler (1939) alluded to further translations: "There is said to have been a fourth edition of Cousland's translation, and more recently a new translation by a native Chinese physician." <sup>(28)</sup> This has been the



Fig. 2. Philip B. Cousland, M.D., circa age 60.

subject of prolonged search and speculation including the possibilities of an additional Appendix to the third edition or a later printing. In support of a new edition there is a 1935 Chinese catalogue listing of a Chinese translation of Osler and McCrae's textbook by Wo-nung Chu, published by the China Medical Missionary Association; the edition and date not stated. <sup>(29)</sup> As Mr. Chu had never appeared as a translator in earlier works, and as no catalogue was published in 1934, this would appear to be a new translation purportedly published between 1934 and 1935. No physical evidence of this book has been found

despite an intensive inquiry, possibly indicating the fact that either publication did not take place during this turbulent period of Chinese history, the catalogue listing notwithstanding, or perhaps that the book was later removed from libraries during the period of the Cultural Revolution.

Recently an extensive search in China revealed the existence of a hitherto bibliographically unrecognized 1938 printing of the third Chinese edition in the library of the China Medical University in Shanghai. The title page (Fig. 3) is the same as the 1934 printing except for a slight difference in typography and states "with New Appendix giving Later Medical Progress", and "Reprinted with Appendix revised 1938" on the post-title page. The preface (English and Chinese) differs from the previous (1934) printing but it is identical to the 1925 edition which is distinguished by a brief tribute to the Presbyterian Mission Press. This is incongruous in the 1938 printing inasmuch as the Presbyterian Mission Press ceased operation in 1931 <sup>(23)</sup> and may indicate that the 1925 edition served as the prototype with the exception of the Appendix. The "Contents Of Appendix" (formerly "Index To Appendix") is now arranged by disease groups instead of alphabetically as in the 1934 issue. The printer is identified as Hua Wein, 186 Wai-hai Road, Shanghai.

This later printing of the third Chinese edition (based on the ninth American edition) was issued thirteen years after the appearance of the tenth American edition (1925), and in the same year as the publication of the thirteenth American edition (1938). It was now eight years after the death of Philip Cousland (1930) who had left China in poor health in 1927. <sup>(23,30)</sup> Although attempts had been made to provide more current information through the publication of appendices, both separately and bound in with the Chinese translations, the book was now seriously out of date.

These factors would appear to militate strongly against the existence of a fourth edition of Cousland's translation as well as a later edition by a new translator, although the latter is not precluded. However, it would seem most

unlikely that the obsolete Cousland work would continue to be reprinted if there existed a suitable fresh translation, presumably of a later edition.

The translations of the Principles and Practice of Medicine served as the standard textbook of medicine in Chinese medical schools for approximately thirty years. In addition, the English language editions of Osler's textbook served those schools offering instruction in English.<sup>(31)</sup> This use of English is said to have incurred the displeasure of the missionaries who regarded it as a threat to their long-standing translation program.<sup>(32)</sup> The finding of the 1938 printing demonstrates the ongoing influence of William Osler in Chinese medical education right up to the eve of World War II and beyond, through the translations of Philip B. Cousland and his collaborators.

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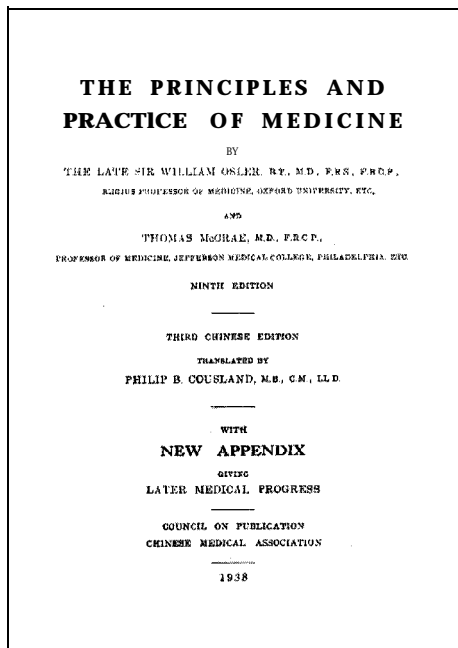


Fig. 3. Title page of the 1938 printing of the third Chinese edition of Principles and Practice of Medicine.

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### Acknowledgements

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### Changes in the Osler Library's Board of Curators

Last Osler Day, November 1st, 1995, three new Curators were elected to the Osler Library's Board of Curators. Dr. Faith Wallis, former Osler Librarian and History of Medicine Librarian, and Editor of the Newsletter, and Dr. Richard Cruess, until recently Dean of Medicine and ex officio Chairman of the Board of Curators, will be continuing, under a different "hat", their long and devoted service to the interests of this Library. This is an appropriate moment to thank them for all that they have done in the past, and for their willingness to continue in a new role. The third new Curator is Mrs. Joy Shannon, who is currently Executive Director of the Montreal Neurological Institute, where she has worked in various capacities for over twenty years. Before that she was Executive Assistant to the Dean of Medicine. Mrs. Shannon has served on the McGill Senate and Board of Governors, and was Vice-Chair of the Council of McGill University Teaching Hospitals from 1985 until 1994.

Also on Osler Day, Dr. Donald Wilson announced that he would be stepping down from the Presidency of Associated Medical Services, Inc. (AMS), and also, therefore, from the Osler Library's Board of Curators. The Chairman of the Board thanked Dr. Wilson for his service as a Curator, and AMS for its work and support.

The Board was also informed that Dr. H. Rocke Robertson was relinquishing his position as President of the Friends of the Osler Library; and the Board thanked Dr. Robertson for his years of service in this capacity. A mail ballot of the Curators was taken subsequently, and Joy Shannon was elected as President of the Friends, each of whom will receive a copy of a letter from her along with this issue of the Newsletter.

### AMS/Hannah Institute Award

A grant of half a million dollars over five years has been awarded to McGill by the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine. McGill's existing Cotton Chair in the History of Medicine will be renamed in recognition of this handsome gift which, as the present Cotton Professor Dr. Don Bates says, will ensure the welfare of this subject at McGill. Dr. Bates is a member of the Library's Board of Curators.

### A New Grant for the Osler Library Collection

In July 1995 the Librarian was notified by the Director of the Strategic Grants Division at the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, that her application submitted under the Program of Aid to Specialized Research Collections had been successful. The Library is thus receiving the sum of \$20,000, over a two year period, to develop its holdings in tuberculosis (a logical sequel to its earlier SSHRC grants for the development of holdings in the etiology, prophylaxis and control of communicable disease).

The application drew attention to the recent resurgence of tuberculosis, complicated by the spread of AIDS and the appearance of drug-resistant bacteria as well as by the concomitant social ills of poverty, homelessness, hunger and drug abuse. The Library's existing holdings reflect, of course, Sir William's own strong interest in both the medical and the social aspects of the disease. At the first meeting of the Laennec Society for the Study of Tuberculosis (founded at Johns Hopkins in 1900), at which Osler presided, a report was given on the social and domestic conditions of 190 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis followed up by students after the release of the patients; an early example of social work. In July 1914, at the annual meeting of the Tuberculosis Association at Leeds, Osler delivered one of his ringing, Churchillian orations:

"Despair would fill the heart if it were not for the splendid efforts of officers of public health, who in fifty years have cut in half the mortality from tuberculosis... We have tracked the enemy, and know his every stronghold, and we know his three allies - poverty, bad housing, and drink... Before us is a long, slow, hundred years war, or even longer, in which, however, coordination, cooperation, and enterprise will win out just as surely as it has done against typhus and typhoid."

Osler's "hundred years war" proves to be a reality. Over a century after the change in the etiological status of tuberculosis in the 1880's, and half a century after the development of the major antibiotic cures in the 1940's, social debate again surrounds the disease and pharmaceutical solutions are called into question.

The Library is now actively seeking out publications on tuberculosis, concentrating particularly on the nineteenth century and the early years of this century up to and including 1913. Booksellers please note...

### Recent Gifts to the Library

The Library recently received the following book; André Paradis and Hélène Naubert: Recension bibliographique: les maladies infectieuses (2) transmissibles sexuellement (blennorrhagie, chancre mou, syphilis) et les maladies nerveuses et mentales dans les périodiques médicaux québécois du XIXe siècle), published by the Centre Interuniversitaire d'études québécoises, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières in 1995 in the series Matériaux pour l'histoire de la médecine québécoise. Part 1 appeared in 1988 and is already in the Library's reference collection.

Professor André Paradis was the Osler Library Research Fellow in 1992. In addition to his work on the bibliography of Quebec's medical history, Professor Paradis also collaborated with Denis Goulet on Trois siècles d'histoire médicale au Québec: chronologie des institutions et des pratiques (1639-1939), published in Montreal in 1992 and a popular item in the Library's reference section.

In the October 1995 issue of the Newsletter we listed amongst recent gifts a poster advertising the Silliman Lectures delivered by Osler in 1913. The poster was pur-

**SILLIMAN LECTURES**  
— BY —  
**SIR WILLIAM OSLER, M.D., SC.D.**  
— ON —  
**THE EVOLUTION OF MODERN MEDICINE**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
Saturday and Monday, April 21 to 28  
at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.  
**LAMPSON LYCEUM**  
YALE UNIVERSITY

chased from Jeremy Norman by Dean Abraham Fuks, (in whose office it will initially hang), and it has now been restored by Madame Louise Genest, appropriately framed, and photographed for inclusion in the Newsletter.

"In the year 1883 a legacy of eighty thousand dollars was left to the President and Fellows of Yale College in the city of New Haven, to be held in trust, as a gift from her children, in memory of their beloved and honored mother, Mrs. Hepsa Ely Silliman.

"On this foundation Yale College was requested and directed to establish an annual course of lectures designed to illustrate the presence and providence, the wisdom and goodness of God, as manifested in the natural and moral world... giving special prominence to astronomy, chemistry, geology and anatomy.

"It was further directed that each annual course should be made the basis of a volume to form part of a series constituting a memorial to Mrs. Silliman. The memorial fund came into the possession of the Corporation of Yale University in the year 1901..."

In his *Life of Sir William Osler* Harvey Cushing tells the story of Osler's contribution to this lecture series. He was approached as early as 1911 with an invitation to deliver the Lectures but owing to pressure of work it was April 1913 before he was able to do it. Osler sailed on the *Campania* on April 5th, 1913, on

what proved to be his last visit to North America. In addition to the 6 Silliman lectures (topic: the evolution of modern medicine), he fulfilled many other engagements and gave other addresses, the best-known of which is the lay sermon "A Way of Life", delivered in Woolsey Hall to the Yale undergraduates. Back in England Osler never completed his revision of the galley proofs of the lectures. The first World War brought him different preoccupations and an even heavier workload, and finally he returned his honorarium to Yale. However, the lectures were eventually rescued and published by the Yale University Press in 1921, two years after Osler's death, as is explained by Fielding H. Garrison in his preface to the volume *The Evolution of Modern Medicine* which constitutes the tenth of the series of memorial lectures and from which the quotations above were taken.

We have recently collected from an office in the Royal Victoria Hospital the second instalment of medical memorabilia bequeathed by Herbert Stanley Birkett (1864-1942) who was Dean of Medicine at McGill from 1914 to 1921. Dr. Birkett had two careers. The first was in otolaryngology, which he practised until just before his death. He created and directed the first Department of Laryngology at the Royal Victoria Hospital. His second career was in military medicine, and he organized and commanded no. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill) in France in the first World War. The entry in Dr. Bensley's book *McGill Medical Luminaries*, Montreal, 1990, notes that after his return to McGill the title "General" Birkett was used by many of his colleagues when referring to him, and an accompanying photograph shows him in uniform. Amongst other items we have unpacked from the boxes which came from the hospital are two fine regimental swords, and no. 3 Hospital's visitors' book with some familiar signatures (Principal of McGill Sir William Peterson, Mary [Queen Mary], Patricia [Princess Patricia] and Sir William Osler). The swords and the visitors' book are now on long loan to Dean Abraham Fuks, who has them in his office.

In 1994 the Grolier Club, New York, exhibited from September 20th to November 23rd *One Hundred Books Famous in Medicine*, including several items lent by the Osler Library. A splendidly illustrated catalogue based on this exhibition,

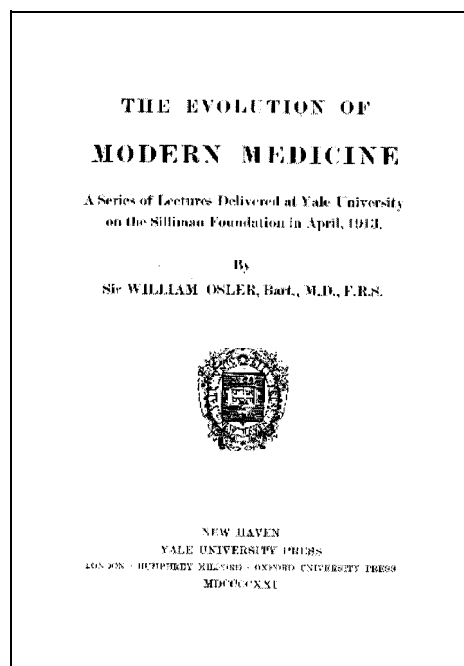
(organized and introduced by Dr. Haskell F. Norman, and edited by Hope Mayo, with the publication date 1995) has just been received in the Library. In his introduction Dr. Norman describes how he turned to the *Bibliotheca Osleriana* for help in defining the particular kind of medical classic he wanted for the exhibition.

William Osler was a Grolier Club member from 1902 until 1919, and the receipt issued for his 1916 membership dues is one of the items illustrated.

**Prof. Larry Stewart:  
Osler Library Research Fellow  
for 1996**

At its February meeting, the Selection Committee for the Osler Library Fellowships awarded its Research Fellowship to Prof. Larry Stewart of the Department of History, University of Saskatchewan. Prof. Stewart is a specialist in 18th century science, and author of *The rise of public science, rhetoric, technology and natural philosophy in Newtonian Britain, 1660-1750*, New York and London, Cambridge University Press, 1992, as well as of numerous journal articles and other scholarly contributions. His research at the Osler Library will focus on the writings of Dr. Thomas Beddoes, and in particular, on Beddoes' interest in using newly discovered gases such as oxygen and nitrous oxide in therapies for tuberculosis. Beddoes was one of a circle of British physicians and scientists probing the possibilities of "pneumatic medicine"; they included the famous engineer James Watt, whose commitment to this project was spurred by the loss of his own daughter to consumption. Their collaboration involved not only experimenting with patients, but even self-experimentation, and illustrates an important early stage in the interaction of medical research with machine technology.

The Library looks forward to welcoming Prof. Stewart later this year. Scholars interested in next year's Fellowships competition may obtain information from the Librarian.



### **Barcoding Osler**

In July 1996 the Osler Library's circulating collection will be barcoded, paving the way for our circulation procedures to be handled next door in the Health Sciences Library. The barcoding dates will be July 8-19 inclusive, and the general disruption to routine means that we shall have to close for that period. Any friends from outside Montreal who had been contemplating a visit here at that time are invited to get in touch with the History of Medicine Librarian at (514) 398-4720, to discuss possibilities of access.

### **Library Staffing**

The Osler Library no longer has a Technical Services component, and the library assistant formerly responsible for Technical Services, Sandra Ransom, has been moved to the Health Sciences Library, where she is spending much of her time on the conversion to machine-readable form of the card catalogue records for the Osler Library's circulating collection. Sandra first came to the Osler Library in 1982 and we thank her for her conscientious work here.

The Osler Library's full-time staff now consists of June Schachter (History of Medicine Librarian), Wayne LeBel (Assistant History of Medicine Librarian), Mary Simon (Collections Assistant) and Lily Szczygiel (Office and Public Services Assistant).

With more budget cuts looming, there is no hope of improving the staffing situation, and we ask for the indulgence of our friends if it takes us longer to answer their questions.

### **Errata**

In the lead article of the October 1995 Newsletter, the final reference (no. 31) was omitted. This reference should read: E.H. Bensley, "W.W. Francis: Patron of the Osler Society", *Osler Libray Newsletter*, 8 (Oct. 1971): [3].

There is an error in the Index to issues 1-78 of the Newsletter, sent out to Friends with the October issue. Under the name Osler, Philip is referred to as the son of William Osler's brother, the Hon. Featherston Osler. In fact he was the son of Henry Smith Osler, (the eldest son of the Hon. Featherston Osler). We apologize for this error, which will be corrected when the Index is updated.

### **Friends of the Osler Library**

The list of Friends who have responded to the appeal for funds for the 1995-96 academic year is not ready for printing, and will appear in the June issue of the Newsletter.

Editorial Committee for the Newsletter: Faith Wallis, Editor; June Schachter, History of Medicine Librarian and Assistant Editor; Wayne LeBel, Assistant History of Medicine Librarian and Assistant Editor; Lily Szczygiel, Editorial Assistant.

Address: Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University, McIntyre Medical Sciences Building, 3655 Drummond Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3G 1Y6.

Tel: (514) 398-4720

Fax: (514) 398-5747

E-mail: [junes@healthlib.lan.mcgill.ca](mailto:junes@healthlib.lan.mcgill.ca)

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